DEPARTMENT OF STATE
DEPUTY UNDERSECRETARY

EXCISE E ∅¹⁾, (x⁾)

G/PM

DECLASSIFIED

SECRET   November 1, 1962

MEMORANDUM

TO: G - U. Alexis Johnson

FROM: G/PM - Jeffrey C. Kitchen

SUBJECT: Nitze Subcommittee

    1. As a result of discussions which Walt Rostow and
I had with Paul Nitze and Harry Rowen, Sy Weiss is now sitting
for us on the Nitze Subcommittee.

    2. As I understand it, the Nitze group was established
primarily for the purpose of looking at Berlin and NATO prob-
lems as they relate to the Cuban crisis, i.e., how the special
lessons learned from the Cuban crisis can be applied to our
handling of the Berlin problem. In fact, however, Paul has
apparently interpreted his mandate as requiring him to advance
new proposals for the possible solution of the Berlin crisis,
specifically in a Summit Conference context. As a result, his
committee has devoted itself to the development of a paper
exploring the various aspects of a Summit meeting (Attachment
A).

    3. Sy reported that the meeting he attended last
night in the White House Situation Room was somewhat chaotic.
In general, the posture around the table from the State repre-
sentatives (Thompson, Schaetzel, Hillenbrand, Popper and Weiss)
and the White House staff representative (Dave Klein) reflected
a probing into the political realism of some of the proposals
explored in the Nitze paper.

    4. As a result, there was a certain amount of sharp,
though friendly, exchange. One example might suffice.

5. Tommy Thompson suggested that the various proposals be subjected to some additional, analytical appraisal as to their practical utility, a suggestion which Paul did not choose to follow up on. It was agreed, however, that the paper would be rewritten.

6. Our own appraisal is that this problem will probably eventually get back in line.

7. I think it is important for you to have this general background, particularly in light of the fact that your assistance may be requested by EUR in interceding with the Secretary should matters not otherwise work themselves out.

Attachment